

HIGH BRIDGE TRAIL STATE PARK
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2006
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Advisory Committee members in attendance were: Ms. Burton, Ms. Carney, Mr. Doswell, Mr. Floyd, Ms. Goin, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Morris, Ms. Nase, Mr. and Mrs. Rice. DCR staff in attendance were: Ms. Zahn, Mr. Hougland, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Wallace, Ms. Wampler, and Mr. Munson. Thirty-five (36) members of the public also attended.

Mr. Munson opened the meeting by introducing the Master Plan Advisory Committee members in attendance. He then reviewed the master planning process and the progress that has been made on the plan to date. A review of the park purpose statement and goals and objects followed. The public was invited to suggest new concepts, identify missing information or ideas, and to point out opportunities the committee had missed or issues that had not been identified. The comments received are as follows:

1. It was suggested that an objective under Goal 6 address the need for the park to be ADA accessible.
2. Concern was expressed about how emergency medical service personnel would be able to locate injured or sick persons on the trail. Restored mile markers, wi-fi and a gps net tied to cell phones, as well as good orientation signage were suggested as the tools that persons calling for help would have to identify their location. It was also suggested that all area law enforcement and EMS responders would have keys to the gates so they could access the park.
3. It was suggested that park signs and interpretive materials be multi-lingual.
4. Safety precautions needed during hunting season to protect park visitors were questioned. It was suggested that park users wear blaze orange when using the trail during hunting season. The park should post signs notifying visitors about the seasons and safety practices. It was also suggested that public service announcements be made and newspaper articles published to remind hunters about the new park and park users about the hunting season.
5. A question was asked about whether carriage driving would be allowed in the park. Some attendees did not think it appropriate, but would support carriage driving during occasional special events. It was suggested that horse-drawn carriage rides be provided as a way for visitors who did not want to hike, bicycle, or ride a horse to see High Bridge and experience the park. This would be especially helpful for persons with mobility impairments. The carriages should be driven on a path that runs parallel to the trail tread.
6. There was discussion about the best route to use to provide access to High Bridge from the Aspen Hill Road area. Driveways and old former roads on private lands were discussed as potential corridors as well as the option of staying within the park boundaries. It was stated that further analysis of the corridor and land ownership would have to be undertaken before a specific plan could be

- formulated. It was made clear that if additional land was needed, the purchase would be from willing sellers only—no condemnation would be used.
7. A question was asked about whether the October 19th public input meeting would include maps showing the exact location of proposed development nodes within the park. It was confirmed that maps would be available for review and that general areas where facilities were needed would be identified.

It was announced that the next public input meeting would be held on October 19th at 7:00 PM in the 3rd floor Board Room of the Prince Edward County Courthouse.

Attendees were reminded that information about the plan's development, newsletters, and meeting minutes were all posted on the DCR website. Also, contact information was provided so that written comments could be submitted to the planning team.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.